

## REMARKS

Claims 1-30 were pending when last examined. In the May 2005 Office Action, a Restriction to one of the following inventions was required:

- I. Claims 1-14, drawn to an automated storage system
- II. Claims 15-19, drawn to a rack storage facility
- III. Claims 20-30, drawn to a method of storing and picking articles

Applicant hereby requests cancellation of Claims 15-19 but reserves the right to pursue the canceled claims in a divisional application.

As a reason for requesting an election, the Office Action stated that "the method as claimed can be practiced by a variety of materially different apparatuses ...." Independent claim 20 has been amended to indicate that the recited method is used with the storage system of Claim 1. With the amendment, Claims 1-14 and Claims 20-30 are sufficiently related and no election between the two groups is necessary.

However, for the purpose of submitting a complete response, Applicant hereby elects Claims 1-14 for further examination. Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to correct a typographical error and a minor form error, respectively.

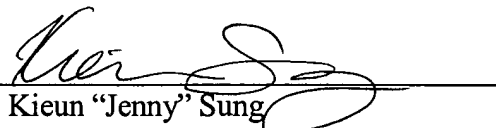
Claims 1-14 and 20-30 are in condition for allowance. Please telephone the undersigned attorney at (650) 833-2121 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY US LLP

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By

  
Kieun "Jenny" Sung  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 48,639

DLA PIPER RUDNICK GRAY CARY LLP  
Attn: Patent Department  
2000 University Avenue  
East Palo Alto, CA 94303  
Telephone: (650) 833-2121  
Facsimile: (650) 833-2001